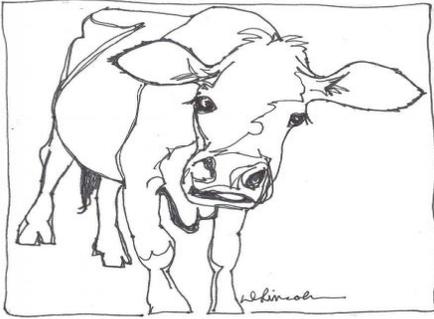


Oconto & Marinette County

Agriculture Newsletter



**From the Desk of Oconto County Agriculture Agent
Sarah Mills-Lloyd**

We have certainly experienced the temperature fluctuations over the past few weeks. As much as I like the warmth of the sun on my face, I realize the adverse effects this type of weather pattern will have for farmers.

The past few months have been very busy in the Extension 'meeting' world, and I hope you took the opportunity to attend some of the meetings offered by UW-Extension. As you will note on the calendar of events, we still have quite a few meetings planned for the month of April.

"A Day with Agriculture Engineers" is a meeting you might consider attending before you are busy with spring planting. If you are thinking about modernizing or making some changes around the farm, but have questions and concerns, this would be the appropriate meeting for you. The day will feature four biologic systems engineers from UW-Madison. This meeting is structured differently than past meetings you may have attended as it is a questions and answer based meeting. You will have time to ask your specific questions to each of the engineers and hear their detailed answer to your question. So, bring your questions along with building plans and ideas for an interactive day with UW-Madison Biologic Systems Engineers. More information about this specific meeting can be found on Insert A of this newsletter.

As always, if you have questions about how we may be able to assist you and your farm, please do not hesitate to call my office (920) 834-6845.

Sarah Mills-Lloyd
Agriculture Agent—Specializing in Dairy and Livestock
Oconto County UW-Extension Office

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If you will need accommodation or assistance as you attend any UW-Extension sponsored event, please contact the host county office at least two days prior to the event. All requests will be confidential.

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CALENDAR OF LOCAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

April 1	Marinette	Spring Garden Conference
April 6	Cecil	Producer and Agribusiness Professionals Peer Group
April 6	Oconto Falls	Raising Meat Birds
April 12	Gillett	A Day with Agriculture Engineers
April 13	Crivitz	Raising Meat Birds
April 13	Crivitz	Successful Vegetable Gardening: Sorting Your Seeds and Managing Pests
April 17	Wausaukee	Laying Flock Management
April 20	Coleman	Meat Animal Quality Assurance Training
April 20	Coleman	Raising & Managing Chickens for Meat and/or Eggs
April 27	Gillett	The ABC's of Vegetable Gardening: What do IPM, NPK, PVPA Mean?
May 4	Coleman	Home Garden Vegetable Management
May 6	Gillett	Meat Animal Quality Assurance Training

Resources for Wisconsin Farmers

Wisconsin Farm Center

www.datcp.state.wi.us

Keyword search: Wisconsin Farmer Resource Guide or call (800) 942-2474 to visit with the knowledgeable staff who provide everything from financial consultation to animal health.

UW-Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources

<http://anre.uwex.edu>

Resources and links at your fingertips.

Farmer to Farmer

<http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu>

Connects Wisconsin farmers with one another for the purpose of buying and/or selling corn and forage.

UW-Extension Dairy Resources

Dairy—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/>

Milk Quality—<http://milkquality.wisc.edu>

Dairy Calf & Heifer Management—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/heifermgmt/>

UW-Extension Livestock

Livestock— <http://anre.uwex.edu/teams/livestock/>

Beef—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wbic/>

Horse—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/horse/>

Poultry—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/poultry/>

Sheep/Goats—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/>

Swine— <http://fyi.uwex.edu/swineextension/>

Small Farm Resources—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/smallfarms/>

Grazing— <http://fyi.uwex.edu/grazres/>

Youth Livestock—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/>

WEEKLY HAY PRICE REPORT as of March 15, 2017

Currently hay demand and price reports can be found at:

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/h-m-r/>

Hay Grade	Bale type	Price (\$/ton)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$185.00	\$150.00	\$240.00
	Large Square	\$178.00	\$135.00	\$240.00
	Large Round	No Reported Sales		
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$179.00	\$120.00	\$250.00
	Large Square	\$122.00	\$100.00	\$160.00
	Large Round	\$75.00	\$55.00	\$95.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$83.00	\$65.00	\$100.00
	Large Round	\$60.00	\$35.00	\$90.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$52.00	\$30.00	\$80.00
	Large Round	\$47.00	\$15.00	\$85.00

Dairy Situation and Outlook March 20, 2017

By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dairy product prices have declined during March with the exception of butter and dry whey. Butter has remained well above \$2.00 per pound ranging from \$2.2325 to \$2.11 and is now \$2.13. Dry whey has held steady in the \$0.48 to \$0.50 pound range. But, 40-pound cheddar blocks started the month at \$1.49 per pound, fell to a low of \$1.36 and is now \$1.4025. The cheddar barrel price started the month at \$1.465 per pound, fell to a low of \$1.35 and is now \$1.36. Nonfat dry milk which was in the \$90's in February has been in the \$0.80 to \$0.81 range during March. With lower cheese prices the March Class III price will be near \$15.70, down from \$16.88 in February. While butter prices have held the lower nonfat dry milk price will push the March Class IV price to about \$14.40, down from \$15.59 in February.

Rather strong milk production at 2.5% higher than a year ago in January and 2.3% higher in February, adjusted for leap year last year, has increased dairy product production and dairy stocks. Compared to a year ago, January production of butter was 1.2% higher, cheddar cheese production 3.5% higher, total cheese production 3.7% higher and nonfat dry milk production 13.1% higher. January 31st butter stocks were 16.1% higher than 2016 and 49.8% higher than 2015. Total cheese stocks were 4.6% higher than 2016 and 17.6% higher than 2015. Nonfat dry milk stocks were 1.1% higher than 2016 and 12.1% higher than 2015.

Butter and cheese sales have softened as buyers are not building inventories and waiting to see if prices fall further. Fluid (beverage) milk sales continue their downward trend. Fluid sales declined 0.7% last year and January sales this year were 0.8% lower than last year. Dairy exports continue to improve. January exports compared to a year ago were up 13% for nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder, 3% for cheese, 24% for total whey products and 1% for lactose. Butter exports however were 26% lower.

The 2.3% increase in February milk production over a year ago was due to 56,000 more cows, an increase of 0.6% and 1.7% more milk per cow. Compared to a year ago and adjusted for leap year last year February milk production continues lower for California, down 2.0%, with increases of 0.8% for Idaho, 11.6% for New Mexico, 16.4% for Texas, 3.8% for New York, 4.8% for Michigan, 2.9% for Minnesota, 4.6% for Iowa, 1.3% for Wisconsin, and 4.6% for South Dakota. The relative strong production increases in New York, Michigan and even New Mexico is making it difficult to find enough plant capacity to handle all of the milk. Some milk has been dumped or in the case of New Mexico fed to calves.

Milk production will increase during the spring flush and likely will push milk prices lower. We can expect the Class III price to be in the low \$15's and the Class IV price in the low \$14's for the months of April and May. But, with continued favorable butter and cheese sales along with continued improvement of dairy exports milk prices should trend back upward after that. The Class III price could be back to the \$16's by June and reaching into the high \$17's by fourth quarter. The Class IV price could reach the \$15's by June and the higher \$15's by fourth quarter. Currently, dairy futures are not that optimistic. Class III futures don't reach the \$16's until July and stay well below the \$17's for the remainder of the year. Class IV futures don't reach the \$15's until August.

As we move ahead we will get a better sense of how domestic sales, milk production and exports will turn out in 2017. Any change in these factors could result in quite different milk prices. USDA is forecasting a 2.4% increase in milk production for 2017 from 52,000 more cows, an increase of 0.6% and 410 more pounds of milk per cow, an increase of 1.8%. This is a lot of milk. Good domestic sales and continued improved exports will be necessary to reach the high \$17's for Class III and high \$15's for Class IV.

Poultry owners urged to increase biosecurity efforts

Release Date: March 9, 2017

MADISON, Wisconsin – Animal health officials with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection are urging all poultry owners, regardless of size, to increase biosecurity efforts now that two strains of avian influenza have been found in the Mississippi flyway. This comes after a highly pathogenic (H7) strain was found in a Tennessee commercial chicken flock and a low pathogenic (H5) strain was found in a Wisconsin commercial turkey flock.

“It’s in a poultry owner’s best interest to take precautions now to minimize the effect that avian influenza will have on their flock if the disease makes its way to Wisconsin,” says Dr. Darlene Konkle, Wisconsin’s Assistant State Veterinarian.

The H5N2 strain found in Wisconsin is not related to the H7 strain found in Tennessee. High path strains are often fatal for birds, but the low path strain found in Wisconsin is not uncommon in poultry flocks and tends to cause few, if any, clinical signs of illness in the birds.

“Low path avian influenza is similar in severity to the common cold in humans and will eventually clear from the flock without bird loss,” Konkle said.

Konkle recommends the following six steps for protecting birds from HPAI:

1. Keep your distance—Restrict access to your property and keep your birds away from other birds.
2. Keep it clean—Wash your hands thoroughly before and after working with your birds. Clean and disinfect equipment.
3. Don’t haul disease home—Buy birds from reputable sources and keep new birds separated for at least 30 days.
4. Don’t borrow disease—Do not share equipment or supplies with neighbors or other bird owners. If you must borrow, disinfect it first.
5. Know the warning signs—Early detection can help prevent the spread of the disease. Check your birds frequently. If you find a sick or dead bird, don’t touch it.
6. Report sick birds—Don’t wait. If your birds are sick or dying at an abnormal rate, call DATCP at 1-800-572-8981. If you notice dead wild birds, call the DNR’s hotline at 1-800-433-1610.
- 7.

CDC considers the risk to people to be low. No human infections with these viruses have been detected at this time. In addition, poultry and eggs are safe to consume as long as they are properly handled and meat is cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F.

More information about avian influenza is available at datcp.wi.gov and from the USDA-APHIS at www.aphis.usda.gov.



EVENTS, DEADLINES AND NOTES

A Day with Agriculture Engineers

As you flip through printed media, you cannot help but notice the new technologies available to farmers—precision agriculture, robotic milking and sophisticated manure handling systems.

Do you wonder if these new technologies can work for your farm, or are you further along in the process and have specific questions? If so, you should consider attending ‘A Day with Agriculture Engineers’ offered by UW–Extension on April 12th, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Gillett Community Center (former BMO Harris Bank).

You will have an opportunity to interact and ask questions to experts from the University of Wisconsin–Madison Biologic Systems Engineers department on a variety of topics:

- *Dairy Modernization: Remodeling facilities, farmstead planning, livestock barn designs for calves, heifers and cows* with Dr. Dave Kammel
- *Manure and Agriculture By-Products Handling, Processing and Transport Systems* with Dr. Becky Larson
- *Precision Agriculture and Machinery Issues* with Dr. Brian Luck
- *Milking Machines and Management, Robotic Milking and Farm Energy Issues* with Dr. Doug Reinemann

Registration for the workshop is requested by April 7th. The workshop fee, which includes meals and materials, is \$25 per person or \$40 per farm operation (limit of two individuals per farm).

This opportunity will be only available to twelve farms due to the interactive question and answer style of this meeting. It is requested, if possible, to bring building plans or aerial photos to help with your specific questions. Farms can register by calling the Oconto County UW–Extension Office at (920) 834–6845 or emailing Sarah Mills–Lloyd, Oconto County Ag Agent, at sarah.millslloyd@uwex.edu.

Register today to have your specific questions answered from experts!

Poultry Management Workshops

UW–Extension of Marinette and Oconto Counties are co–sponsoring a series of workshops regarding poultry management with the libraries in our two counties. The individual discussions have a focus, but questions on other poultry management issues will certainly be taken at all of them. The current slate of scheduled programs are as follows, with the chance to have one or two more scheduled at other libraries:

Thursday, April 6	6:30 pm	Oconto Falls Library	Raising Meat Birds
Thursday, April 13	3:00 pm	Crivitz Library	Raising Meat Birds
Monday, April 17	4:00 pm	Wausaukee Library	Laying Flock Management
Thursday, April 20	4:00 pm	Coleman Library	Raising & Managing Chickens for Meat and/or Egg Production

Workshop Details

Laying Flock Management. Eggs produced by commercially managed laying hens are not the same as those produced by hens given access to different types of feeds and food sources, or from different genetic sources. This session will delve into proper management of home egg laying flocks (chicken and duck), including discussion of selection, management, and long–term care. We will also discuss the legalities of selling eggs and the realities of cost of production.

Raising Meat Birds. Producing high quality chicken or other poultry for your own family's consumption can be a rewarding experience for all involved. There are many things to take into account, from purchasing and caring for chicks; to feed/water management; and how you will handle processing them. We'll also review what you need to do to sell meat birds to others.

Vegetable Gardening Workshops

As we approach the beginning of gardening season, UW–Extension is also partnering with libraries to offer home gardeners some opportunities to review and refine their management practices with the following sessions. You are always welcome to contact Scott to get more information on these topics.

Thursday, April 13 1:00 pm Crivitz Library Successful Vegetable Gardening: Sorting your seeds and Managing Pests

This discussion will focus on proper selection of vegetable species and cultivars, and then switch to identifying and managing likely vegetable garden pests that you may have to fight.

Thursday, April 27 6:00 pm Gillett Library The ABC's of Vegetable Gardening: What do IPM, NPK, PVPA, AAS, VFNT and other acronyms mean to you and your vegetable garden?

We'll spend some time talking about each of these, with a focus on soil health and proper pest management in your home vegetable garden.

Thursday, May 4 4:00 pm Coleman Library Home Garden Vegetable Management

Getting the most from your new, small, or continuing vegetable garden space doesn't take a PhD. in anything, but knowing how to select the right seeds, identify and manage pests, and properly plant your vegetables certainly makes a big difference in the final quality and yield of your veggies.

MAQA Training Dates

Please note...all youth exhibiting market **beef, sheep, swine, poultry, meat goats, dairy, dairy goats and rabbits** at the fair must attend a MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) training every year. If you are not MAQA certified, you will not be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions at the 2017 Oconto County Fair.

The MAQA trainings scheduled for this year:

Thursday, April 20—Pound Town Hall, Coleman 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, May 6—Gillett Community Center, 200 E Main Street, Gillett 1:00- 2:30 pm

*Registration for these trainings is **required**. You can register by calling the Oconto County UW-Extension Office (920) 834-6845.*

If you are not MAQA certified, you will not be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions at the 2017 Oconto County Fair. MAQA training must be renewed every year. Exhibitors must attend the entire training to be certified. Please choose the date and location that works best for you!

If you are unable to make any of these dates, you are allowed to attend a MAQA training in another county. Please visit the UW–Extension MAQA website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/maqa/maqa-meetings/> for training in other counties, or contact the Oconto County UW–Extension office. Most counties will be holding their trainings in spring and early summer, so please do not wait until the last minute!

North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association

The North Central WI Cattlemen's Association invites the public and those raising beef or wanting to learn about beef production to the Beef Round-up on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at Brecke Rodeo Arena, W7939 Hwy 64, Medford, Wisconsin. The Round-up will be held from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

New this year, the NCWCA Beef Preview Show will be held in conjunction with the annual Round-up. All students within or out of Wisconsin planning for upcoming fairs and shows are invited to participate. The NCWCA Preview consists of Jackpot Showmanship for students ages 8 to 22, a Junior Market Steer Show, and an Open Heifer Show (for both youth and adults). \$200 grand champion steer and heifer and \$100 reserve grand champion steer and heifer are being awarded. The NCWCA Preview will be an excellent event for both the exhibitor and their animal(s) to gain experience for the 2017 fair and show season.

Gates to the NCWCA Preview will open at 7 am; check-in and weigh-in closes at 9:30 am. A Showmanship Clinic begins at 9 am. The Preview begins at approximately 12:30 pm, with Jackpot Showmanship immediately following the conclusion of the NCWCA Seed-stock Sale.

Visit the NCWCA website, <http://ncwcattlemen.com> to read the rules for the NCWCA Preview and to download the entry form. To receive early-bird discounted rates, entry forms (one exhibitor per form) are due with payment by April 30, 2017, to the address listed on the form. Contact Sandy Stuttgen, Agriculture Educator, UW-Extension Taylor County at 715-748- 3327 ext. 1, for more information.

Tractor Safety Training

Any youth that do not have their Wisconsin driver's license need to be certified in the Tractor and Machinery Safety training to be able to operate farm tractors or machinery on public roadways. Those 12 and older can then work for their family's farms, while those 14 and older can work for other farms as well. There are various options conducted each year by either Northeast Wisconsin Technical College or UW-Extension for youth to get certified.

Planned 2017 training opportunities:

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Oconto Falls - Saturdays between March 25 and May 6 from 8:30 to 12:30
Shawano - June 19-23

Either course cost approximately \$83. To enroll, register with the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Enrollment Services (920) 498-5444 or (888) 385-NWTC.

UW-Extension

Planned for July 19, 21, 26, 28 in Coleman

Cost \$35. Watch for registration information in June newsletter, or call Scott (715) 732-7510 for more information.

Looking for a way to track your farm operating expenses?

The Oconto County UW-Extension office has copies of the Wisconsin Farm Account and Record Book for sale. This written record book is for those who prefer to keep hand-written records.

The Wisconsin Farm Account and Record Book was reproduced from suggestions of The University of Wisconsin College or Agriculture following years of extension study. It is a complete, adequate bookkeeping system. The record book is designed to provide, if properly kept, all of the figures you will need to prepare your state and federal tax returns, plus a Profit and Loss statement of your year's farm operation.

Please stop-in the Oconto County UW-Extension office located in room 3033 at the Oconto County Courthouse, or remit payment of the cost of the book to Oconto County UW-Extension, 301 Washington Street, Oconto, WI 54153 to have your copy mailed to you. Cost of each book is \$8.00.

UW-Extension Milk Quality Website--<http://milkquality.wisc.edu>

Provides useful and practical information important for the production of high quality milk. The mission of their work is to improve the quality of milk and enhance the profitability and competitiveness of the Wisconsin Dairy Industry in a global economy. The issues addressed and information provided will be useful for all involved in the production of milk—dairy farmers, veterinarians, educators, dairy advisors, researchers, field representatives and many more.